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Andrew Greeley

'Throw the dirty tricksters out'

LET US strive to be reasonable about the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency.

First, it is impossible for a large nation to exist in the modern world without both a federal investigative agency and a large intelligence-gathering entity. As such organizations go, ours are apparently more competent than most.

Second, while there were undoubtedly serious abuses of power through the histories of both agencies, they probably have been misused less than similar groups in other countries. As a European friend recently remarked, "Our government would never have permitted Watergate to become public knowledge."

Third, most FBI agents are responsible investigative officers and most CIA intelligence analysts are not "dirty tricksters." It is not fair to them or to their agencies to blame everyone for the mistakes of a few leaders and overeager operators.

FINALLY, the apparently endless series of revelations which so delight the left-wing press is doing considerable harm to the agencies' morale and it is bound to have a bad effect on their operations.

Congressmen who are looking for headlines and reporters who are pushing their own adversary ideology are tearing the FBI and the CIA to pieces.

O.K., I have been restrained, reasonable, sympathetic, understanding. Fair enough! Now, what still remains to be said about the violations of the Constitution and the law of the land in which the FBI and the CIA have routinely engaged for several decades?

What remains to be said is that the



J. Edgar Hoover

whole thing stinks.

The late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, national hero that he was, turns out to have been a semipsychotic monster capable of blackmail and inducement to suicide—all for the good of the country, of course, as defined by him.

The crew-cut Ivy League types who came out of the Office of Strategic Services after World War II to found the CIA let themselves get so walled up in their secret empire of power that they became quite indistinguishable from the Gestapo and the KGB, the Soviet secret police. They were acting for the good of the country, of course, as they defined it.

But the point is that in our constitutional system, such governmental em-

ployes as Hoover or the late CIA Director Allen Dulles' whiz kids are not supposed to define the good of the country. We elect political leaders to do that and we impose on them severe constitutional limits. The whole idea of the founders was that the people retain control over everything that they do not delegate to the government.

Neither the FBI nor the CIA thought you could trust the people. So they decided to spy on them. There is an old American political saying that fits the situation perfectly: "Throw the rascals out!"

So let every horror story be told, let every rascal be publicly humiliated, if not sent to jail, let it be clear to every bureaucrat with a gun or a bug or a dirty trick that he works for the people of the United States of America under the Constitution of those United States.

THE RADICALS unfortunately were right on this one. The leadership of the FBI and the CIA were indeed part of a conspiracy to take away some of our freedom—for our own good, of course, as defined by them. Clarence Kelley, the current FBI director, has repeated the idea that we have to sacrifice some of our freedoms.

Kelley hasn't received the message. The sooner he gets his walking papers the better. Given half a chance he'll become another J. Edgar Hoover.

Kelley doesn't understand that freedom is what this country is all about. In T.S. Eliot's words, "When good does evil to fight evil, it becomes indistinguishable from that which it is fighting."

Throw the rascals out!

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